

Big Plans for Small Towns

April 1, 2006

Make No Little Plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will themselves not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that noble, logical diagrams, once recorded, will not die.

Daniel Burnham
Chicago Architect and Planner
1846 - 1912

So Who is Small?

In New Hampshire, a lot of us!! Of the 234 cities and towns,

50 communities are under 1000 in population (21%)
95 communities are under 2000 in population (41%)
171 communities are under 5000 in population (73%)
Only 29 communities exceed 10,000 in population (12%)

In rank order, Chichester is #118 at 2236 residents. In other words, half of the New Hampshire communities are smaller than Chichester.

Master Plans in General

RSA 674 – See Blue Sheet

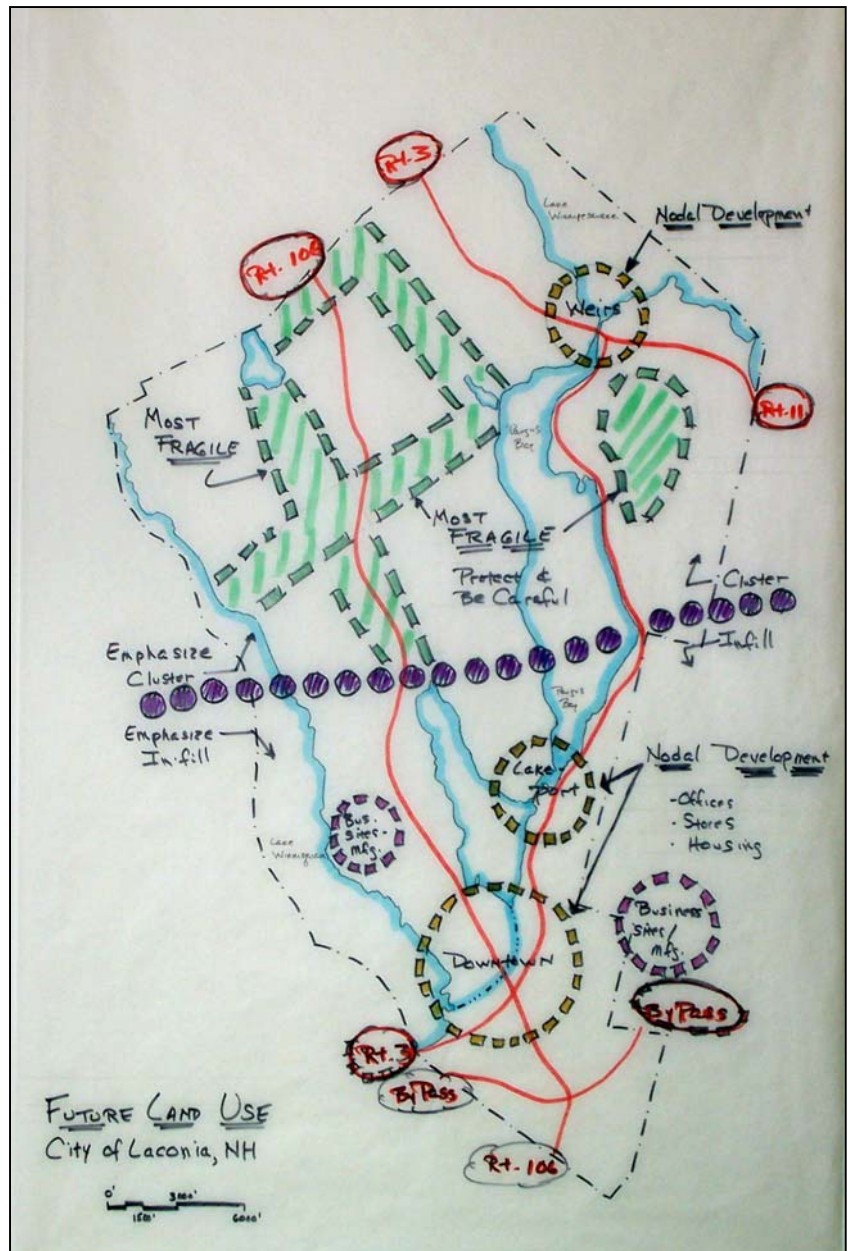
Must Have: Vision Statement

Statements Regarding Natural Environment
Statements Regarding Built Environment
Statements Regarding Social Environment

We envision that in the year 2020, Smallville will remain an attractive community in which to live, work, and raise a family. Through sound and judicious planning, we will have retained the Class A rating of the water quality in Lake Small, preserved and redeveloped the historic village centers at Upper and Lower Smallville, and created opportunities for new employment in the Craft Center, and through a variety of home-based industries. Old Home Day and the Fourth of July Picnic will remain important local institutions.

Must Have (continued)

A Future Land Use Plan



-Need not be as detailed as a zoning map

-May show generalized development patterns

-Should be adequately clear so as to show a basis for policy development and future implementation actions.

Tools, Tricks, and Resources

So Whaddya Like? The Vision Game

Write down three things you most like about our community.

Write down three things you really wish you could change about our community.

What good ideas have you seen used elsewhere that you think might work here?

Can do this in large group sessions; send out ambassadors to other's meetings (Rotary, Lions, church groups, VFW, neighborhood associations, etc.)

Community Cornerstones

First developed and used by then Governor Gregg's Commission on NH in the Twenty First Century.

Assignment: Identify 21 Cornerstones that you commit to preserve for the 21st Century.

Has to be something you can photograph: Old Home Day Picnic, not community spirit, etc.

Done in 1991-92 in ten communities. Ten years later, 209 of 210 still standing, some because they were on this list of sacred features.

Use to create a vision statement.

Other Resources -Lots!! Start with:

Office of Energy and Planning: www.nh.gov/oep

Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP)

<http://www.rebuildingi93.com/content/initiatives/> Click on
Workbooks

Regional Planning Commissions

Cooperative Extension